

***Introduces Resolution Calling for the Release of All Political Prisoners in Burma***

**(Washington, DC)** Today, Congressman Alcee L. Hastings (D-Miramar) introduced a resolution welcoming the release of Burmese democracy leader and Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Aung San Suu Kyi on November 13<sup>th</sup>, 2010. Additionally, the resolution calls for a continued focus on securing the release of all political prisoners and prisoners of conscience in Burma. **(Please find attached a copy of the resolution).**

“I was pleased by the release of Aung San Suu Kyi last month from Burma’s military regime and strongly urge her release to be permanent and unconditional,” said Hastings. “This is a step towards democratic progress, but there is still much more that needs to be done.”

Aung San Suu Kyi has spent 15 of the past 21 years in detainment after first being placed on house arrest in Burma on July 20, 1989. Even though offered freedom if she left the country at that time, Daw Aung Suu Kyi remained in Burma and continued her non-violent struggle against oppression. She has served as an inspiration to the Burmese people and the world, having been honored with the Nobel Peace Prize in 1991. Additionally, Daw Aung Suu Kyi received the Presidential Medal of Honor in 2000, the highest civilian award in the United States, and the Congressional Medal of Honor in 2008.

“Aung San Suu Kyi has demonstrated unwavering and determined political leadership, provided inspiration, and garnered respect from the people of Burma and democracy-loving people around the world,” said Hastings. “I am humbled by her tireless efforts in pursuit of human rights and democracy in Burma.”

Hastings’ resolution recognizes the contributions made by Aung San Suu Kyi and welcomes her release. Additionally, it calls for the immediate and unconditional release of all political prisoners and prisoners of conscience in Burma, including Aung San Suu Kyi’s supporters in the National League for Democracy and ordinary citizens of Burma, including ethnic minorities, who publicly and courageously speak out against the regime’s many injustices.

“Today, however, we must not rejoice. Daw Aung San Suu Kyi has called on all world leaders to stay focused on the plight of each one of the millions of Burmese struggling against the military rule, on the over two thousand two hundred political prisoners suffering unjustly in Burmese prisons, and the thousands of women and children being systematically raped and taken as sex slaves and porters for the military whose rule they suffer under.

“The House of Representatives has the opportunity today to celebrate Daw Aung San Suu Kyi’s freedom. And, yet, we celebrate with a heavy heart for all of the millions still suffering in Burma. I urge my colleagues to stand firmly in solidarity with Aung San Suu Kyi and the people of Burma with your support of the passage of this resolution, human rights, an end to the junta-imposed violence, democratic progress, and for the release of all prisoners of conscience in Burma.”

**Joining Hastings as original co-sponsors are Representatives (16): Madeleine Bordallo, Joseph Cao, Joseph Crowley, Donna Edwards, John Hall, Rush Holt, Peter King, Jim McGovern, Jim Moran, Hank Johnson, John Lewis, John Olver, Joseph Pitts, Chris Van Hollen, Aaron Schock, Frank Wolf**

*Congressman Alcee L. Hastings is Vice Chairman of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, a senior member of the House Rules Committee, and Co-Chairman of the U.S. Helsinki Commission.*

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 [Aung San Suu Kyi Resolution 12-15-10.pdf](#)